

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for allowance of claims 39-76. No claims have been amended. Claims 39-76 remain in the application. Claims 1-38 have been canceled. No claims have been added.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10-12, 14-22, 24-31 and 33-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fairbanks U.S. Pat. No. 6,191,658 ("Fairbanks")

While Applicant respectfully disagrees with the above cited rejections, Applicant has cancelled the claims without prejudice to allow the patent to issue. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue the unallowed claims in a continuation if funds allow.

35 U.S.C. 103(a) Rejections

Claims 3, 13, 23, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fairbanks in view of Graef U.S. Pat. No. 6,305,001 ("Graef")

While Applicant respectfully disagrees with the above cited rejections, Applicant has cancelled the claims without prejudice to allow the patent to issue. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to pursue the unallowed claims in a continuation if funds allow.

Allowable Subject Matter

While Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing Claims 39-76 Applicant wants to clarify the record with regard to the statements in the Office Action concerning the

claims 39, 75, 52 and 62. The Office Action could be misconstrued to suggest that claims 39 and 75 are limited to the configuration of a distributed clock generator as shown in Figure 6-7, "having specific structural limitations such as ... each of the plurality of clock wires coupling one of the plurality of terminals of one of the plurality of cells to one of the plurality of terminals of another of the plurality of cells" (Office Action 04/17/06, p. 7). Similarly, the Office Action could be misconstrued to suggest that claims 52 is limited to the configuration of a distributed clock generator as shown in Figure 6-7, "having specific structural limitations such as ... and being configured in combination with the rest of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims" (Office Action 04/17/06, p. 8). Further, the Office Action could be misconstrued to suggest that claims 62 is limited to the configuration of a distributed clock generator as shown in Figure 6-7, "having specific structural limitations such as ... to cause another clock edge transition of the clock signals to substantially simultaneously occur some delay time after each of the single clock edge transition times." (Office Action 04/17/06, p. 8-9).

Applicant would like to clarify that the Office Action merely uses the elements in the figures as examples and that these examples are not intended and should not be used to read limitations into the claims.

As iterated in the response to the prior Office Action dated 11/02/05 and Office Action dated 01/13/05 and Office Action dated 6/14/05, Applicant submits that according to MPEP §2111.01, claims must be given their "broadest reasonable interpretation" while examined by the USPTO and that "the words of the claim must be given their plain meaning unless applicant has provided a clear definition in the specification"; also "ordinary, simple English words whose meaning is clear and unquestionable, absent any indication that their use in a particular context changes their meaning, are construed to mean exactly what they say"; and "a particular embodiment appearing in the written description may not be read into a claim when the claim language is broader than the embodiment." The only exception is "when an element is claimed using language falling

under the scope of 35 U.S.C. 112, 6th paragraph." However, none of the claims are means plus function claims which would prompt any reference to the specification to clarify the scope of what is claimed.

For at least these reasons, Applicant feels it necessary to clarify the meaning of the statements in the Office Action and request the Examiner to indicate if the meaning is contrary to what is stated above.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome by the remarks, and that the Claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the Claims be allowed.

Invitation for a telephone interview

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 408-720-8300 if there remains any issue with allowance of this case.

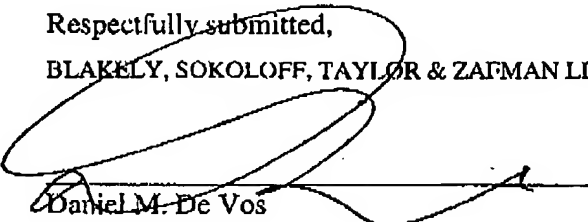
Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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